Commission No. 857a

FBI Knew Oswald Capable of Act, Reports Indicate

By HUGH AYNESWORTH
© The Dallas Morning News, 1964

A source close to the Warren Commission told The Dallas News Thursday that the commission has testimony from Dallas police that an FBI agent told them moments after the arrest and identification of Lee Harvey Oswald on Nov. 22, that "we knew he was capable of assassinating the president, but we didn't dream he would do it."

In a memorandum to superiors on Nov. 22, Lt. Jack Revill, head of the Dallas police criminal intelligence squad, reported that FBI special agent James (Joe) Hosty had acknowledged awareness of Oswald in the basement of the City Hall at 2:05 p.m. Nov. 22. His remark was made as five officers brought Oswald in from Oak Cliff, Revill reported.

LT. REVILL appeared before Warren Commission investigators here several weeks ago. Police Chief Jesse Curry testified before the commission in Washington Wednesday. Neither would comment on their appearance or their testimony.

Chief Curry was reported to have been questioned about the incident and was said to have given the commission a photostatic copy of Lt. Revill's 5-paragraph memo. He also was said to have given the commission the name of a second Dallas police officer who supported Revill's statement and filled in other parts of the conversation between Revill and Hosty.

The second officer, V. J. (Jackie) Bryan, a member of the criminal intelligence squad, also declined comment.

CHIEF CURRY had Lt. Revill's report in hand within hours of President Kennedy's death, even before all the facts and circumstances concerning Oswald were known.

Gordon Shanklin, special agent in charge of the Dallas FBI office, would make no comment.

The commission Thursday had not talked to agent Hosty, but The News' source said he anticipated that the agent would be called to testify.

CURRY WILL not show the report to reporters, nor will he comment on it or any other phase of the assassination.

"That's for the Warren Commission to talk about," the chief said.

Revill's memo is still in Chief Curry's possession.

In addition to mentioning that Hosty said the FBI knew Oswald was capable of such an act, the memo said Hosty told Revill other facts about the one-time Russia resident and admitted Marxist.

DALLAS POLICE officers watched several known extremists prior to the Kennedy visit and even sent representatives as far as 75 miles to interview others thought to be planning demonstrations.

Curry privately has told friends, "If we had known that a defector or a Communist was anywhere in this town, let alone on the parade route, we would have been sitting on his lap, you can bet on that." But he has refused public comment.